

activated and sent on the converted Queen Mary to England. A few days after D-Day, he was deployed on a landing craft to Omaha Beach in Normandy. This allied offensive would change the tide of the war.

Following his courageous service, Captain Wilson was discharged from active duty in 1946. He continued in the Army Reserves until his retirement in 1971 when he retired as a Captain at the age of 60.

For over fifty years, Captain Wilson has continued to support the men and women of our armed services through his leadership in the American Legion, serving as the Commander for the William R. Edmondson branch as well as its adjutant. He is currently an honorary member. He has also served the nearby Lemont Veterans of Foreign Wars Post. In both of these positions, he illustrates his dedication to his fellow armed services members and his country. Following his active military service, Captain Wilson was employed as a driver for the Chicago Transit Authority until 1975.

Honesty, integrity, hard work, responsibility, and patriotism are the core principles by which Captain Wilson lives and these are the same principles he has bestowed upon his children, Nancy and Judith. He also was a loving husband to his wife Helen, who passed away in 1978. He is a man who defended our country at a time of tremendous adversity, and who continues to serve his fellow men and women in the armed services. Please join me in honoring his lifetime of service, his bravery, and his dedication to family and neighbor.

HONORING FORMER PUTNAM
COUNTY EXECUTIVE PAUL J.
ELDRIDGE

HON. NAN A.S. HAYWORTH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

Ms. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Paul J. Eldridge for his service as County Executive for Putnam County.

Mr. Eldridge was appointed by the Putnam County Legislature in November 2010 to serve until a special election could be held to fill the position. Mr. Eldridge confirmed the wisdom of his selection, serving with honor and distinction during a difficult period. His service as County Executive was the culmination of 33 years as a public servant for Putnam County, during which Mr. Eldridge has received numerous awards and honors for his work.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the Honorable Paul J. Eldridge. New York's Nineteenth Congressional District, and the entire Hudson Valley, is fortunate to have benefited from his service.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. WALTER
BEEBE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Walter Beebe, who is being honored at the New York Open Center's 2011

Gala Celebration for his extraordinary vision and service to the New York Open Center and progressive philanthropy.

After obtaining a bachelor of arts from Harvard University in 1962, Mr. Beebe earned his bachelor of laws degree in 1965 from Stanford University. Almost immediately after finishing his education, Mr. Beebe began his career with Partner, Jacobs Persinger & Parker in 1966. He was a corporate attorney with the New York law firm until his retirement in 2006.

Mr. Beebe is the founder, Board Chair and President of the New York Open Center. He has been a leader in the holistic movement through the work of the Center for nearly 30 years. The Center is a nonprofit holistic learning center that seeks to integrate the intellectual, emotional, physical, and spiritual elements of life.

In addition to his work with as an attorney and with the New York Open Center, Mr. Beebe has been an active philanthropist. He has served on the Board of Directors of several organizations and companies including Westar Institute, Interfaith Center of New York, New Jersey Steel Corporation, Von Roll of America, Inc. and subsidiaries, Bank Street College of Education, Sunbridge College, Near East Foundation and Greyston Foundation. Mr. Beebe was also the co-host for the White House Commission on Alternative Medicine.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues please join me in congratulating Mr. Walter Beebe as he is honored by the New York Open Center at their 2011 Gala Celebration on November 10, 2011.

GUS STAVROS HONORED FOR
SELFLESS SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay tribute to Gus A. Stavros of St. Petersburg, Florida, a decorated war hero, a hugely successful small businessman, and a philanthropist who has devoted his life to educating our youth. Most importantly to me, Gus Stavros is my friend.

Gus received a Certificate of Basic Engineering at the University of Florida in 1944 in preparation for his service to our nation and the Army during World War II. He served with great distinction in General George Patton's Third Army, earning three campaign ribbons for Northern France, Ardennes and Rhineland, and the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. He was severely injured on January 19, 1945, and required eight months of hospital care.

Always placing the highest priority on the value of education, Gus returned from the war a hero and enrolled at Columbia University in New York, where he graduated in 1948 and went on to New York University, where he received his MBA in 1951.

It was our good fortune that upon his graduation Gus moved to Florida to start a business forms manufacturing company in Pinellas County, Florida. As the owner and CEO, he grew the company from 3 to 550 employees making it the largest business of its kind anywhere in the Southeastern United States. Having achieved success as a businessman, he

sold the company in 1989 and pursued his first love of education, cultural endeavors, and the tireless support of numerous charitable organizations.

Wednesday evening, the Pinellas County Education Foundation will celebrate Gus Stavros' 25 years of service to the students, parents, and teachers of our community through the Foundation he established with then Assistant Superintendent of Schools Howard Hinesley. Unique at the time, the Foundation's first project was the establishment of Enterprise Village in 1989, a hands on program that teaches 10,000 fifth-graders a year important life lessons of business and economics. Every one of these fifth-graders spends a day at Enterprise Village running a business. For most, with the classroom lessons that prepare them for their special day of running their own business, they have their first introduction to free enterprise. Today the most appropriately named Gus A. Stavros Institute administers not only Enterprise Village, but with a \$4 million expansion now teaches fiscal responsibility to 8,000 eighth-graders annually at its Finance Park.

Local, state, national and even international leaders of education and business have paid visits to Enterprise Village to learn how they can inspire students in the areas of business and finance just as Gus Stavros has this past quarter century.

Gus and his lovely wife of 63 years Frances have been honored many times over for the selfless work in behalf of numerous charitable organizations throughout our community. And our state's Governors and leaders of higher education have called on Gus repeatedly to serve on the board of trustees for many of our colleges and universities.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when our nation searches for solutions to reenergize our economy and create jobs, we need to look to great Americans like Gus Stavros for answers and inspiration. There are few people I know that are half of Gus' 86 years that have as much energy and as many good ideas.

Gus Stavros has served our nation in war time and in peace time. He has used his success in business to create jobs for others and to provide unique educational opportunities for hundreds of thousands of youth. Most importantly, he symbolizes the American spirit of selfless service to do what he can to improve the lives of others.

It is my hope that my colleagues will join me in saying thank you to Gus Stavros for a lifetime of achievement and in paying tribute to him for a job well done.

A TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM
THOMPSON

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend William Thompson of his service to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management and to congratulate him on his upcoming retirement.

Mr. Thompson began his career in 1971 with the U.S. Marine Corps after his service with the Marine Corps in 1975. He returned to college and became a co-op student with the